

REMARKS

By this paper, claims 1, 3, 42 and 43 have been amended and claims 5, 14, 16, 39, 40 and 41 have been canceled. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-13, 15, 18-21, 38, 42-44 and 56-60 remain pending.

In the outstanding final Office action dated September 13, 2006, claims 1, 4-6, 8, 9, 13, 35 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Tomonto et al. (6,027,528). Additionally, claims 3, 19-21 and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomonto et al. Claims 41-44 were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and claims 56-60 were found to be allowable.

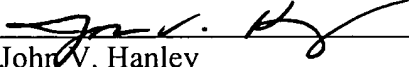
Although the Applicants do not agree with the rejections of the claims, in order to advance the present application to issuance, independent claim 1 has been rewritten to incorporate the subject matter of allowed now canceled claim 41, and claim 43 has been rewritten in independent form. As such, it is believed that each of the pending claims are now in a condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have attempted to completely respond to the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office action. In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the application be reconsidered, the claims allowed and the application passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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